

FIRST INTERNATIONAL AND EIGHTH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
ON CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY
Vienna, Austria, 5-8 July 1993

WELCOME ADDRESS

Edzard Ernst
Chairman of the Conference

Dear guests of honour,
dear colleagues,
dear friends,

It is a true pleasure to welcome you to this meeting. The University of Vienna is historical ground for doctors from all fields of medicine, also for hemorheologists: Van Swieten, who was called from Leyden to Vienna by Maria Theresia, founded the first Viennese School of Medicine which subsequently gained fame the world over. In a sense, he can be viewed as a hemorheologist applying hemodilution with a physiologic understanding that differed from the ideas of his contemporaries and included principles that were re-discovered only by modern hemorheology.

This is the 8th European and the 1st International Conference on Hemorheology. It will see the birth of the **International Society for Hemorheology** which is meant to create a continuous forum for hemorheologists worldwide. We expect around 600 delegates from 40 countries from all continents to present around 400 communications.

The meeting differs not only in volume (hence the necessity to extend it to 4 days) and internationalism, but also in content. Our field seems to have matured and is now "infiltrating" many clinical areas. This change is reflected in the very wide scope of topics which range from the classical rheological subjects of methodology to its application in circulatory and hematological diseases and relatively new areas like white cell rheology, adhesion molecules, prostanoids and even free radicals.

Our team has worked hard to make this meeting a success. Nevertheless, in the final instance, success can only be brought about by your participation.

We thank you for coming to Vienna and sharing your research with us. We hope that this conference will turn out to be an important landmark on the way to international recognition of hemorheology's contribution to medicine.

E. Ernst
Department of Physical Medicine
and Rehabilitation
University of Vienna